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U.S. Extension Service.

Suggestions for Meeting 1943 Animal Production Goal

Statement prepared for use in discussion by J. L. Beatman, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., at the regional meetings on the 1943 Food Production Program, Denver, Colorado, December 2; Chicago, Illinois, December 5; Memphis, Tennessee, December 9; New York City, December 16, 1942.

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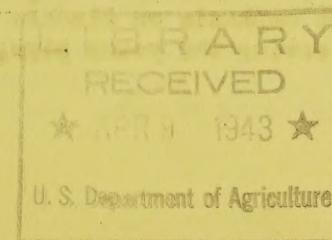
Animal products to the utmost limit of practical production possibilities are needed in our war effort. They will have a major role to play in the final attainment of victory. Patriotic Americans will want to leave no stone unturned to make these essential materials available, in spite of labor shortages and other physical handicaps. To do so will save lives.

On the favorable side we have animal populations of record proportions and feed supplies also are largest in history. Prices to producers are attractive and more stable perhaps than under normal conditions. And government policies never before have offered such favorable economic encouragement to the animal industries. The fundamental problem is how to make the most efficient use of the livestock and the feed and available manpower to turn out optimum quantities of the needed commodities. The job to be done is a big one and will require intelligent planning and untiring physical effort. The following suggestions are intended to highlight some of the more important factors and practices involved, as reminders to field workers in assisting operators to make the greatest possible contributions of the products so vitally needed.

Farm Family Food

Food shortages are on the way. Already several items are scarce and others scheduled for rationing. The more ships we build, the more men we send abroad, the more half-starved people we release from oppression - the less food there will be for the home folks. This applies especially to animal products. In this situation the home production of the farm family's food supply assumes great importance. If we can remove the major food needs of 30 odd million farm people from the retail stores we will release a victory boosting avalanche of essential foods to other outlets. Most farm families can produce the greater part of their own food without reducing the output of marketable products.

Producing the family food is a natural and profitable by-product of farming. It provides the family with an opportunity to make maximum year-around use of its land and family labor. It provides a visible concrete bit of war service in which the family can figuratively and literally sink its teeth. Also home-raised food pays. The present retail value of the meat from \$14.00 worth of live hog, for example, is \$21.72. It also relieves already congested commercial processing and transportation facilities of added burdens. Relief to commercial facilities by any form of self-sufficiency will grow more important with the continuation of the war.



U. S. Department of Agriculture

Farm Power

Workstock as a source of farm power has an important place in our wartime agricultural economy. Attention should be given to the following items-Control of internal parasites such as bots; Condition for spring work; Equipment such as harness, shoes, multiple hitches, etc; Breeding to maintain present numbers; Custom and cooperative use; Feeding and general care, including condition of teeth; Protection against encephelomyelitis and other infectious diseases.

Animal Health

Always important but absolutely basic now. Extreme concentration of stock, especially hogs, on farms seriously increases disease hazards. It is absolutely essential that every possible precaution be taken to keep losses at a minimum. In the infectious disease field, immunize, test, isolate, destroy carcasses of animals which die, disinfect, control carriers of infections, introduce animals only from healthy sources, report unusual cases to sanitary authorities. Parasitic diseases take on added significance with increased animal populations and over-crowded premises. Here sanitation, clean ground, pasture rotation, disposal of manure and medication are indicated. External parasites also take their toll. Insecticides must be used as dips, sprays and dusts and preferably on area basis. Livestock nutritional diseases, especially those caused by vitamin and mineral deficiencies are apt to develop in certain areas. Correct or prevent by supplying necessary supplements.

Shipping Losses

Market without loss that which is produced. That calls for feeding before loading, careful loading, proper bedding, good transportation equipment, careful supervision in transit and at unloading. Humane handling throughout marketing process. Avoid bruising and crippling losses.

Hogs

Of primary importance are large litters of thrifty pigs saved to market age. If we could market 80 percent of a sow's litter instead of the present 60 percent average, potential pork production would jump a third. A brood sow's maintenance costs are the same whether she raises 2 pigs or 8. Observe these practices -- Selection of prolific breeding stock. Proper feeding and management during gestation period. Clean sows, clean farrowing quarters, provide guard rails, electric-brooders. Provide supervision at farrowing. Clean ground. Protein and mineral supplements. Pig creeps. Self-feeders for sows and litters. Make full use of pasture, preferably legumes. Immunize against cholera. Electric fencing will help. Improvised equipment to overcome shortage of new materials. Hogging down crops. Expand breeding seasons. Feed to heavier weights. Use wheat as substitute for corn. Feed plant protein supplements. Grow your own where practicable. Utilize garbage, distillery slop and other similar sources of feed. Put emphasis on disease prevention practices, conditioning of sows for farrowing, saving the young pigs, clean pastures and balanced rations.

Dairy

The practice of milking three times a day, if generally practiced and combined with feeding three times a day, for only a 90-day period, would increase production sufficiently to meet 1943 goals. Other feeding suggestions - feed roughage to capacity of cows. Increase grain feeding according to production at levels somewhat heavier than normal. Feed ample protein to balance grain ration. Feed grain and roughage three times a day. Provide constant supply of water or water at least three times a day. Remove chill from water in cold weather. Supply minerals when known to be deficient. Feed replacement heifers well to get size for early breeding. Breeding - with the many dispersal sales of dairy herds it is an opportune time for dairymen in position to do so, to improve or increase present holdings. Use proved sires or sons of proved sires. Continue D.H.I.A. work so that records will be available for proving sires. Breed well-grown heifers at earlier age.

Management - shelter milking herd during winter. Keep dairy animals out of cold winds and off wet and frozen pastures. During winter months when labor is more available, milk and feed three times a day. Use care in milking and handling of products to avoid losses because of low quality. Control mastitis and other udder ailments. Provide succession of pasture crops to furnish grazing throughout the growing season, and rotate use of temporary and permanent pastures. Practice good pasture management including clipping. Plan for grass silage where feasible. Continue grain feeding through pasture season. Supplement pasture with hay, silage or soiling crops. Provide shade in pastures for hot weather. Supply ample fresh water. Cure hay to preserve the green color and leaves.

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Poultry

Feeding - make certain that especially breeder and grower mashes have adequate vitamin content. Make full use of surplus wheat in both grain and mash mixtures. Feed mash containing maximum levels of soybean and peanut meals, as both meat and fish meal supplies are short. Put emphasis on full feeding to maintain maximum production levels. Stress pastures for poultry, using most suitable seeding mixtures for the locality. Breeding - push Quality Chick production, using to the fullest extent possible the high grades produced under the National Poultry Improvement Plan which is in operation in 44 of the States, and equivalent production-bred stock in these and other States. See that all R.O.P. cockerels produced are distributed to key breeding flocks. Housing - conduct remodeling and repair campaigns to keep old poultry houses in good condition, and where advisable convert other buildings into poultry houses. Avoid overcrowding. Allow 4 square feet per bird for heavy breeds, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ square feet for light breeds. Construct temporary houses where needed from straw or waste materials. Use home-made Louisiana-type brooders for backyard flocks and home-made wood burners wherever wood is available. Disease control - emphasize need for competent laboratory diagnosis before any attempt at treatments. Use chicks from pullorum-tested stocks. Practice sanitation methods to prevent disease. Vaccinate for chicken pox in areas where disease is prevalent. Vaccinate for infectious laryngeal-tracheitis when outbreaks occur. Use deep litter to control coccidiosis, maintain clean dry houses and save labor. Management - practice continuous culling. Rear out-of-season brood to keep laying house capacity full.

Raise winter broilers to avoid idle brooder equipment and to produce extra meat. Handle eggs so as to maintain new-laid quality. Avoid egg losses from heat, because quality factors will become more important with ceiling prices based on government grades.

Beef

Larger percentage calf crops by controlled breeding, potent sires of good type and quality and thrifty, healthy cows. Use of mineral supplements with breeding herds especially in range States where certain elements are known to be deficient. Keep range cattle numbers in balance with normal feed supplies. Provide reserve feed supplies for possible drought shortages by storing silage, hay and other feeds. Present prices for old or unsatisfactory bulls favor their sale and replacement with younger bulls of higher quality. The same is true of cows. Such procedures will increase present beef supplies as well as those of the future. Make full use of roughage in beef production to lower costs. Put moderate finish on more slaughter cattle and high finish on fewer. Holding market cattle to greater average ages will increase beef tonnage and the production of heavy leather badly needed in our war effort. Control cattle grubs. Discontinue branding that has no economic value and reduce size and change location of brands to conserve leather. Utilize wheat and surplus protein supplements in cattle feeding. Provide labor-saving equipment if available. Recognize that the major war-time outlets for beef demand a product of the intermediate grades. Produce that product with the greatest possible efficiency from available feeds.

Sheep and Wool

Keep numbers of breeding animals in balance with normal feed supplies, especially in the range States. Consider use of cross-bred Western ewes for replacements or increasing size of flocks in farm States. Survey situation regarding equipment and shearers for clipping 1943 wool crop. Train sheep shearers where needed. Consider use of baling instead of bags for packaging wool crops. Reduce the number of sheep and lambs going to slaughter market freshly clipped as an aid to shearling production. Shear at proper interval before marketing to produce military shearlings. Control parasites and especially nodular worms, by use of phenothiazine.

General

Become familiar with existing war-time programs and regulations affecting animal production and marketing and be alert to the announcement of new ones or modifications of those already in effect. In this category are those of A.A.A., W.P.B., O.P.A., W.M.C., O.D.T., etc. The Department attempts to keep members of the field staffs informed on all such matters and "The Federal Register" of course carried copies of all official orders, directives, etc. More or less confusion and annoyance are normal every-day war "children" in spite of efforts to have everything moving smoothly. We must all realize that there is a war to be won and therefore be as patient, cooperative and tolerant as possible, for the home front is of great importance in the attainment of final victory.

In this connection an editorial from the Missouri Farm Bureau News is pertinent - "Discouragement may at times hang heavy over our heads, difficulties may pile up, injustices, real or facied, may rankle, but farm people must keep on keeping on. The stream of food and fiber from our farms must be kept at the maximum possible by human endeavor. We have no more right to quit or to slacken than the soldier has to toss aside his gun when the going gets tough. It's our job to keep 'em eating, so they can keep on fighting."

